Abstract of the Disclosure

An e-mail filtering method and system that
categorizes received e-mail messages based on information
about the origin, such as the sender sending the message
or the site from where the message was sent, which is
contained in the message header and the SMTP session used
to send the message. This data, whether the sender is
familiar to the receiver, and other information about the
message is then sent by each member of an e-mail network
to one or more central databases (in one embodiment, the
information will also be stored at a database associated
with the recipient's e-mail program and filtering
software) which stores the information and compiles
statistics about e-mails sent from the origin to indicate
the likelihood that the e-mail is unsolicited and
determine the reputation of the origin (a good reputation
indicates the sender sends solicited messages while a bad
reputation indicates the sender sends unsolicited e-mail
messages). Information from the central database is then
sent to recipients in order to determine the likelihood
that a received e-mail message is spam (information may
also be obtained from the local database associated with
the recipient's e-mail program and filtering software).